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Alice Mitchell's Case.

INQUIRY AS TO HER INSANITY NOW IN PROGRESS.

The Testimony of Her Father Tends to the Theory of Hereditary Insanity.

Memphis, Tenn., July 19.—The case of Alice Mitchell, charged in connection with Lillie Johnson, with the murder of Freda Ward, on the 25th of January last, came up in the criminal court yesterday morning in the shape of an inquisition of lunacy, ordered at the instance of Miss Mitchell's counsel. Notwithstanding the universal interest taken in the case, there was only a fair-sized crowd in the court room when it was called, the general impression being that the proceedings would be too full of technical matter to suit the average taste. Promptly at the appointed hour the defendant appeared under charge of a deputy sheriff and accompanied by her white-haired father and two brothers.

The first witness called was Robert Mitchell, the father of the accused. He testified at length concerning her parentage and character from earliest childhood, and also detailed the facts as to the remarkable friendship that had existed between his daughter and Freda Ward. Alice's mother, he said, was insane at different periods before and after Alice's birth, and had in one of these fits taken up the idea that her stepdaughter, his child by a former marriage, was trying to kill little Alice, and she became so violent in her aversion to the stepdaughter that it was necessary to send the latter away from home. She also conceived a dislike for him and for her baby. As Alice grew up she evinced an aversion to girlish diversions, but was keen to join the boys in their sport, and could hold her own with any of them, particularly at climbing trees, shooting at targets with a rifle and riding horses bareback.

She learned nothing at school, seeming to be unable to fix her mind on her lessons. Her love for Freda Ward affected her deeply and after that she was a changed creature, seeming to care for nothing. Since the tragedy she had talked of Freda frequently in the most endearing terms and seemed not to realize that the girl was dead. She cried bitterly when informed that she could not attend Freda's funeral. She had never shown any interest in the trial, and did not seem to care what her fate would be.

Mr. Mitchell also said that his daughter had never had any beaux or cared for the society of the other sex since she grew up, but rather to the contrary.

During his testimony Mr. Mitchell frequently wept, but Alice sat smiling and wholly unmoved.

Today there was considerable testimony adduced that defendant

was a subject of hereditary insanity transmitted from her mother after which the court adjourned till tomorrow.

Alice Mitchell is the 19 year-old miss who under an unfathomable impulse almost beheaded with a razor her bosom friend and companion, Freda Ward. The prominence of the young woman gave the tragedy an intense interest locally, but the uncanny and distressing relations supposed to have existed between the two awakens a morbid curiosity among those who are familiar with the details of the crime. The crime presents a vexing problem to physicians and metaphysicians.

Freda Ward was a well formed young woman, 18 years old. She had brown eyes that were fascinating, for as she talked vivaciously they grew a deeper brown, as her face relaxed to a quite smile they resumed a dreamy, shallow depth. In appearance she resembled that type of charming young Southern maidens who live in the plantation districts of the Mississippi valley. Accompanied by a sister and another young woman, she was sauntering down the levee of Memphis on the afternoon of January 21. Smoke was rolling from the stacks of the trim Ora Lee, packet on which the Misses Ward were to return to their home at Gold Dust, Tenn. They were chatting unconcernedly of the dances and conquests the War is had made during their visit to Memphis.

As they turned from the custom house walk there was the rushing of a woman's dress behind them, and in a moment Alice Mitchell, with a razor in her hand, threw herself upon Freda Ward. Miss Ward's sister sought to beat her off with a parasol, but the infuriated tigress paused for a moment to slash her with the keen blade. The steel laid the flesh open on Miss Joe's white throat and the blood spurted out, but the wound was not serious. Miss Freda was reserved for the slaughter. Again and again was the razor whipped across poor, defenseless Freda's throat, blood spouting out from the severed veins and trickling between the rough stones down the levee.

Scarcely a dozen minutes did the ill-fated woman live after the assault. The murderers clambered up the levee, leaped into a buggy, where Miss Lillie Johnson was awaiting, and the old family horse was belabored unmercifully.

The murderers drove directly to her home on the aristocratic portion of Union street.

"Oh, Allie, what have you done?" asked her frightened companion. "There is blood on your hands and face."

"Yes, it's Freda's blood! Don't you wipe it off! Oh, I loved her so!"

The police arrested Miss Mitchell at her home that evening, and on the next day Miss Johnson was arrested as an accessory. Three hours after the deed, when taken before the chief of police, Alice was as a woman in the midst of her home circle. She even smiled from beneath her veil at the crowd of officials gathered about.

AS A TRAP ON HARRISON.

REPUBLICANS ANXIOUS ABOUT THE ANTI-OPTION BILL.

It May Pass—The President Would Be Compelled to Displease the East or West.

WASHINGTON, July 19.—The anti-option bill came up to-day again and Senator Stewart made the speech of the day. Senator Stewart never talks about anything without laying it on the rack of free coinage. Original sin, cholera and all that come to him are connected with the failure of the people to indorse free coinage. The bill will doubtless go through when the dignity of the senate puts an end to the prolonging of debate on the measure.

The republicans of the senate are just the least bit uneasy through fear that the bill may pass and go to the house, where it will be received with open arm. If it goes through the house a more dreadful condition will confront Mr. Harrison than even the silver bill if it was passed. If he should veto it he would lose the west. If he approved it he would lose the east. According to the democrats in the house the trap is set for him, both going and coming. It is this that the republicans are afraid of.

ROUGH ON THE WORLD'S FAIR.

The world's fair appropriation was beaten to-day to the extent that it never can be revived. The reason was that just at this particular time the congressmen from the south were not all in favor of giving or loaning money to anyone particularly as the farmers of the third party were asking for loans on their crops. Congress with its usual generosity in the face of an election authorized the secretary of the treasury to have medals struck and diplomas engraved at a cost of \$103,000, which money is to be collected out of the funds of the exposition. In other words congress has authorized the exposition to kill its own snakes. This is perhaps the most laughable piece of legislation that has tickled the humor of the American people for many years. The exposition folks are very greatly depressed. Doubtless they will regard with scorn the legislation passed for their benefit inasmuch as the bill provides that all appropriations are dependent on the closing of the great show on Sunday, and there is no appropriation in the bill as it stands now.

WHAT CHILE WILL PAY.

WASHINGTON, July 19.—The secretary of state announces that a settlement has been reached between the United States and Chile as to the indemnity to be paid by the latter on account of the assault upon the crew of the Baltimore. Seventy-five thousand dollars in gold will be distributed among the families of the two men who lost their lives and to surviving members of the crew who were wounded.

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